NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 3, 2006

EX EAST ST. LOUIS PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN SENTENCED FOR VOTER FRAUD

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on March 3, 2006, **TERRANCE STITH** was sentenced before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, East St. Louis, Illinois, to four (4) months' imprisonment and two (2) years' supervised release. In addition, the Court ordered **STITH** to pay a $150 fine and a $100 Special Assessment. **STITH** pled guilty on March 22, 2005, to a one-count Information charging him with aiding and abetting voter fraud, all in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 1973i(c). The charges arose from conduct by **STITH** while serving as a Democratic Precinct Committeeman for the twenty-third Precinct in East St. Louis, Illinois, during the November 2, 2004 General Election.

According to facts stipulated to by **STITH** and the Government at the time of his guilty plea, **STITH** used money obtained from the St. Clair County Democratic Committee to pay voters to vote for the offices of President of the United States, Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, and Chairman of the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners. **STITH** paid some of these voters $5, and some of these voters $10.

Information for the successful prosecution was obtained in an investigation by the Metro East Public Corruption Task Force. Law enforcement agencies participating in the investigation include the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the United States Postal Inspection Service; the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation; the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and the Illinois State Police. The prosecution of the case was handled by Special Assistant United States Attorney Hal Goldsmith.